TRENDS

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS

A3275-2

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, April 2, 1992 -- As the first quarter of 1992 draws to a close, railroad freight traffic reports provide new evidence that the nation's recession may be ending.

Intermodal traffic has been above year-earlier levels every single week so far this year, while ton-miles have been above 1991 levels every week but one. Carloadings have exceeded year-earlier totals in 11 out of 13 weeks.

"There are three significant elements to the gains that provide strong evidence the nation is coming out of the recession," said Dr. Harvey A. Levine, vice president of economics and finance at the Association of American Railroads.

"First, both ton-miles and intermodal freight are above levels reported at the end of the first quarter in 1990, just as the economy was beginning to slow down. Second, total rail traffic is up, despite the fact that coal loadings are down about 2 percent this year, a reduction that is largely a reflection of the warm winter and other factors. Finally, it's especially encouraging that traffic associated with autos and housing are leading the way," Dr. Levine said. Automotive traffic is up 17 percent so far this year, and lumber and wood products are up more than 12 percent, the latter reflective of housing starts, a traditional leader out of recessions.

Overall, railroads reported estimated ton-miles of 266.4 billion for the first 13 weeks of 1992, up 4.8 percent from 1991 and 2.7 percent from 1990. Railroads also reported

(more)

intermodal loadings of 1,582,292 trailers and containers for the first quarter of 1992, up 5.5 percent from the same period of 1991 and 4.0 percent from 1990.

For the first 13 weeks of 1992, carloadings originated on U.S. railroads totaled 4,138,143, up 2.0 percent from 1991 first quarter figures, but down 5.3 percent from 1990.

During the week ended March 28, U.S. railroads originated 328,948 carloads of freight, up 5.6 percent from the comparable 1991 week. Carloadings were up 9.5 percent in the East and 1.6 percent in the West.

Estimated ton-miles during the same week totalled 21.2 billion, up 9.3 percent from 1991. Intermodal volume totalled 128,660 trailers and containers, up 13.0 percent.

The railroads reporting to the AAR account for about 94 percent of all rail carloads and 97 percent of rail intermodal loadings.

WEEKLY TRAFFIC OF MAJOR RAILROADS
FOR THE WEEK ENDING MARCH 28, 1992

CARLOADS ORIGINATED, BY COMMODITY GROUP

COMMODITY	WEEK ENDING MARCH 28, 1992	COMPARISON WITH SAME WEEK OF 1991	CHANGE	COMPARISON WITH PRECEDING WEEK	CHANGE
Grain	29,486	25,846	14.1 %	30,730	-4.0 %
Farm Products, Ex. Grain	1,900	1,199	58.5	1,735	9.5
Metallic Ores	12,768	14,165	-9.9	13,873	-8.0
Coal	124,014	123,547	0.4	123,008	0.8
Crushed Stone, Sand & Gravel	11,838	11,679	1.4	11,837	0.0
Nonmetallic Minerals	8,505	7,852	8.3	8,568	-0.7
Grain Mill Products	10,330	9,836	5.0	10,105	2.2
Food & Kindred Products	9,021	8,404	7.3	9,079	-0.6
Primary Forest Products	9,360	8,495	10.2	9,443	-0.9
Lumber & Wood Products	6,285	6,237	0.8	6,192	1.5
Pulp, Paper & Allied Products	10,635	10,449	1.8	10,349	2.8
Chemicals	30,051	28,096	7.0	30,286	-0.8
Petroleum Products	5,018	4,267	17.6	4,891	2.6
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	9,351	8,605	8.7	9,212	1.5
Coke	5,563	4,684	18.8	5,262	5.7
Metals & Products	10,894	10,018	8.7	10,467	4.1
Motor Vehicles & Equipment	19,284	13,826	39.5	19,187	0.5
Waste & Scrap Materials	8,255	7,417	11.3	8,584	-3.8
All Other Carloads	6,390	6,854	-6.8	6,281	1.7
Total	**328,948**	**311,476**	**5.6 %**	**329,089**	**0.0 %**

SUMMARY: CARLOADS ORIGINATED, INTERMODAL TRAFFIC AND ESTIMATED TON-MILES

TRAFFIC	WEEK ENDING MARCH 28, 1992 1992	1991	CHANGE	CUMULATIVE: 13 WEEKS ENDING MARCH 28, 1992 1992	1991	CHANGE
Carloads Originated	**328,948**	**311,476**	**5.6 %**	**4,138,143**	**4,058,956**	**2.0 %**
Intermodal Traffic Originated						
Trailers	63,834	59,744	6.8	772,074	779,496	-1.0
Containers	64,826	54,076	19.9	810,218	720,688	12.4
Total	**128,660**	**113,820**	**13.0**	**1,582,292**	**1,500,184**	**5.5**
Estimated Ton-Miles Class I Railroads (Billions)	**21.2**	**19.4**	**9.3 %**	**266.4**	**254.2**	**4.8 %**

NOTE: Carloadings are estimated for: Week 13, 1992 - LSI.